Pollution of Beaches by Ship-Breaking Industry

3656. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ship-breaking for scrap on beaches and water-fronts create massive beach pollution and also cause fish mortality and destruction of beauty of the beaches; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring a legislation to ban such indiscriminate ship-breaking and making it mandatory to carry such activities in the dry docks or other isolated barren land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Ship-breaking causes pollution and may cause fish mortality. Such activities may also affect the beauty of the beaches.

(b) The Central Government have issued environmental guidelines for setting of industries. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has provision for dealing with such situations and no separate legislation is considered necessary.

Government Directive regarding declaration of Assets by Public Men

3657. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to issue orders to the Chief Ministers, Ministers of Union and State Governments, M.Ps. and MLAs as well as MLCs to declare their assets; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether members from the public will have access to such information if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to make it obligatory for the political parties to get their accounts audited every year and make it public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir. However, there is a Code of Conduct for Ministers of Union and State Governments.

(b) No, Sir. The returns furnished by the Ministers to the Prime Minister or the Chief Ministers, as the case may be, are confidential communications.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government at present.

Population Figures

3658. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is State-wise population of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Muslims, Backward Classes and others; and

(b) what is the source of the above figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) State-wise population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes according to 1981 Census are given in Statement enclose. (*See* below). In Statement enclosed, the population figures of Muslims and other religions are given based on the 1981 Census data on the religion of the head of household collected through the household schedules. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 126].

The figures mentioned in Statement-I and Statement-II exclude Assam where the 1981 Census could not be conducted owing to disturbed conditions prevailing in that State then.

The State-wise population figures of Backward Classes are not available.